



League of Women Voters  
of La Plata County

# VOTER

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Sixty-six Years Serving La Plata  
County  
92 Members

October, 2011

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## **October Calendar**

### **Water 101 Seminar**

Friday, October 7, 8:30-5, Pagosa Springs Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd, Pagosa Springs, \$40.

Click [here](#) for further details.

### **Ballot Issue Forum**

Monday, October 10, 6:30-8 pm, Durango City Council Chambers, 949 E. Second, Durango  
Three of the ballot proposals appearing on our November mail-in ballot will be discussed by speakers at the forum:

#### **City of Durango Ballot Issue 2A - Purchase of water rights from Animas-La Plata Project:**

Bill Ramaley, chairman, Dick Reitz, member, respectively, of the Durango Water Commission and Jack Rogers, Public Works Director

**Proposition 103 (the only state-wide ballot issue) – Raising taxes for public education:** Pro and con groups will briefly present their arguments, moderated by Stephanie Huss, LWV past president. Click [here](#) for the Ballot Issue 2011 pamphlet (in English and Spanish) produced by the League of Women Voters of Colorado, which contains pros and cons of the issue and other important facts about voting in CO.

#### **Durango Fire Protection District Referred Issue 4A - Tax for Funding of Durango Fire and Rescue Authority:** Chief Dan Noonan, Durango Fire and Rescue Authority

Click [here](#) for the DFRA website and much more information on the issue.

After brief explanations of the issues, written questions from the audience will be answered by the speakers. Because this is the only public ballot issue forum the LWV is presenting, everyone is urged to mark his/her calendar for it. The forum will be simultaneously broadcast by CitySpan10. Click [here](#) for fliers for this and other forums.

Mail ballots will be mailed out to active voters beginning October 11 and are due back to the County Clerk's office by 7 pm November 1. The deadline to register to voter in this election is October 3. **To make sure you are registered or your address is correct and that you are an active voter [here](#).**

Watch your mail for the 'blue book' (titled *Notice of Election to Increase Taxes on a Citizen Petition*) put out by the state explaining Proposition 103 and the local equivalent *Notice of Election* from the county on all the local ballot issues.

The LPEA-City of Durango Franchise Agreement mail ballot for city residents has been postponed.

### **Board meeting, Thursday, October 13, 1-3 pm, Trish Pegram's home**

#### **Bayfield (10-JT-R) School District Candidate Forum**

Wednesday, October 19, 6-8 pm, Bayfield Town Hall

Candidates for all four open positions will participate.

Click [here](#) for a flier.

#### **Durango 9-R School District Candidate Forum**

Thursday, October 20, 6-8 pm, Durango City Council Chambers

Four positions, Districts A, B, D, and G will be on the ballot. All candidates, contested or not, have been invited to participate in the forum. Click [here](#) for a flier.

Ignacio School District (11-JT) will not have a school board election but will be voting on local issues as well as the state-wide issue Proposition 103. Contact xxx for information relating to the local issues.

**Role of Ranches, Farmers, Forest Land Owners, and other Stakeholders in Climate Mitigation**, Thursday, October 20, 7 pm, 130 Noble Hall, Fort Lewis College (Life Long Learning Program)

Click [here](#) for the Life Long Learning Series brochure.

**United Nations Day, Monday, October 24.** Remember and celebrate all the continuing great accomplishments of this organization, supported by the LWV from its beginning in 1945. Click [here](#) for a New York Times op ed piece called *Learning from Hammerskjold* on Dag Hammarskjold, second U.N. secretary-general, role model for all subsequent secretaries general.

### **November Calendar**

**Federal Role in Education (national study), study/consensus**

**Saturday, Nov. 5, 10-3, Christ the King Church, light lunch of homemade soups provided**

See the article below for additional information.

**December** – Holiday Social, Friday, Dec. 9, 11:30-1:30 pm

### ***Articles of Interest***

#### **September WAS Membership Renewal Month!**

If you haven't renewed, click [here](#) for our membership renewal form. Our membership chair, Suzanne Becker (see newsletter heading for her contact info), will appreciate your proactive attention to renewing and we all will be very pleased to have you and your support with us again for the coming year. Many of us will tell you that our best friends anywhere are LWV members because Leaguers can discuss issues intelligently and agree to disagree on a wide range of governmental, social, environmental and other topics.

#### **Federal Role in Education Study**

Our study committee, consisting of Mary Barter, Carol Blatnick, Barbara Cristol, Ann Flatten, Connie Jacobs, Bev Wells, new LWV member Sandra LaFrance, Marilyn Brown (facilitator) and Trish Pegram (ex officio), has been hard at work preparing all the information we have gathered from the position papers received from the national study committee and from our own interviews to help you answer the consensus questions on November 5. We will provide a light lunch of homemade soups and beverages. We hope you can attend the entire session. If you cannot, please come when you can and participate in the questions we are discussing while you are there. NOTE: As always, our meetings are open to the public; however, only members can participate in the consensus process. This is a good opportunity for non-members to *observe* grassroots consensus, the most important process in the LWV.

Click [here](#) to see the LWVUS background papers online or ask to read them in the white notebook at the Reference Desk of Durango Public Library.

Check out the [Glossary and Acronyms](#) used in the materials for the study.

#### **LWVCO Takes Neutral Position on State Ballot Issue**

As reported last month, the state board has decided to take a 'neutral' position on the state ballot issue, Proposition 103, on the temporary five-year tax increase for public education. Per Cath Perrone, LWVCO president, "As much as all of us want quality education in this state, the credibility of the League may well be at stake if we were NOT to look at the broader picture. The League believes that major changes need to be made in Colorado's fiscal situation. Our infrastructure as well as our children are in serious danger, and that is as important as adequate and equitable education funding are, our positions on good government require more." Email

Marilyn Brown, email in LWV heading, for copies of two articles in the August LWVCO Voter, *From the President* and Legislative Action Committee member Sally Augden's summary of the arguments. This means that as a League we can neither support nor oppose the ballot issue; however, as individuals we can vote our conscience, of course.

### **Water Series 2011**

Kudos to Dr. Dennis Lum, retired FLC professor, and to Ross Park for the 4-session discussion series, *The Water Crisis at Home and Abroad*, offered by the League of Women Voters of La Plata County and the Durango Public Library during September. The excellent [series](#) was attended by at least 72 different people, averaging 47 persons per session. The films *Flow* and *When the Water Tap Runs Dry* were excellent and the discussion of this critical subject lively. DVDs of both films are available to borrow from the Durango Public Library and the Fort Lewis College Library. Our sincere appreciation to Dennis for the idea, content and facilitation, and to Ross for arrangements and introductions.

### **National Study: Privatization of Government Services**

Does this topic intrigue you? We need you. Become a member of our local study committee, which will begin work after the study materials arrive from national in November. The purpose of this study is to identify the parameters and policy issues to be considered in connection with proposals to transfer federal, state or local government services, assets and/or functions to the private sector. It will review the stated goals and the community impact of such transfers, and identify strategies to ensure transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good. The timeline requires us to study and come to consensus by May, 2012. We welcome all members to join us. Contact Marilyn Brown, email address in newsletter heading, for more information. A brief description of the study timeline and recommended reading are available on our website [here](#).

### **Clean Air Promise Campaign**

Have you signed the Promise yet? The League of Women Voters has launched a campaign, including a national advertising effort, seeking to renew America's promise to protect clean air and public health embodied in the Clean Air Act, now under threat in the Congress and across the country. The **Clean Air Promise** campaign calls on citizens, elected officials and community leaders around the country to join in making this simple promise to protect the health of our children and families:

***"I promise to protect America's children and families from dangerous air pollution.***

***"Because toxics and pollutants such as mercury, smog, carbon, and soot, cause thousands of hospital visits, asthma attacks, and even deaths, I will support clean air policies and other protections that scientists and public health experts have recommended to the EPA to safeguard our air quality."***

Our local LWV expects to work with San Juan Citizens Alliance and perhaps other community organizations to publicize the campaign. Click [here](#) for a copy of the LWVUS press release announcing the launch of the campaign and other materials. More information about the campaign can be found [here](#) on the People Not Polluters website.

### **Great Decisions 2012**

The topics have been announced and our sessions have been set up! Click [here](#) for the flier and mark your calendar.

Unsubscribe: Please let me know at [marilbrown@aol.com](mailto:marilbrown@aol.com) if you no longer wish to receive our newsletter.